

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Sturdy Corp

#### North Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### Sturdy Corporation Tackles Iso 14001 And Qs 9000 Simultaneously

##### Client Profile:

Sturdy Corporation in Wilmington, North Carolina, employs 150 people to design and manufacture automotive and marine control and display systems.

##### Situation:

As a supplier to the automotive industry, Sturdy Corporation had to obtain ISO 14001 certification within a year. At the same time, Sturdy was due for its periodic QS 9000 audit. The company decided to combine some processes and pursue both certifications at the same time. Sturdy needed guidance to accomplish such an ambitious project, and asked the Industrial Extension Service at North Carolina State University (IES), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

##### Solution:

IES recommended that Sturdy use its QS 9000 foundation as a base for its ISO 14001 preparation. This novel approach of auditing both quality and environmental management systems at the same time allowed the company to make better use of its available resources. IES provided important audit team training and technical advice. Concerned about the 90-day deadline Sturdy had set for itself, IES made every effort to keep the project tightly focused on a strict schedule.

Sturdy not only met its own 90-day deadline to become certified in both ISO 14001 and QS 9000, it did so in a noteworthy manner. The auditors concluded that Sturdy is a benchmarking organization “noteworthy” of best practices.

##### Results:

Achieved ISO 14001 and QS 9000 certifications.  
Retained contracts with key clients.

##### Testimonial:

“Since we already had the quality system in place and with the Industrial Extension Service's guidance, we stayed on track.”

Sue Belford, Quality Engineer/Lead Auditor